GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1161
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
CELLULAR TELEPHONE POLICY OF MTNL IN MUMBAI
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has finalised the Cellular Telephone Policy of MTNL;

(b) if so, whether MTNL is going to start its cellular services in Mumbai from August 15, 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether MTNL was to start cellular services in 1999 in Mumbai;

(e) if so, the reasons for delay;

(f) the details of cost and charges of MTNL for providing cellular services in Mumbai; and
(g) the number of said connections MTNL is expected from Mumbai?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Sir, a licence has been granted to MTNL by Department of Telecom, the licensing authority for operating Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the cities of Delhi and Mumbai.

(b)&(c) No, Sir, MTNL is not starting its cellular Services in Mumbai on 15th August 2000. The service is likely to commence in November 2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The earlier tender for GSM equipment was allowed to lapse as the matter of license of MTNL for Cellular service was pending in Hon`ble High Court of Delhi.Since, no clear verdict from Hon`ble High Court was forthcoming even in the extended period of bid validity and in view of the falling prices of GSM equipment, it was decided that the first tender may be allowed to lapse and fresh tender may be invited after categorical clearance from Hon`ble High Court of Delhi.

(f) The charges/tariff for GSM Mobile Telephone service will be announced after completing the reporting requirement to TRAI (TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA).

(g) MTNL expects about 50,000 subscribers in Mumbai in the first year of launch of its service while the equipped capacity shall be 100,000 subscribers.